

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-6333



June 15, 1981

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 81-61

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

ATTENTION: PLACEMENT SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: AB 2749 CERTIFIED HOME STUDY

AB 2749 (Chapter 1166, Statutes of 1980) adds Section 11406 (b) to the Welfare and Institutions Code as follows:

"No later than January 1, 1982, the department, with the advice and consent of the counties, shall report to the legislature with regard to the characteristics of placements made in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (5) of subdivision (a) of Section 11402, and shall make recommendations regarding whether such unlicensed placements can and should be redefined, minimized, or eliminated. The purpose of the report shall be to ensure that children are receiving the best possible care".

Section 11402 (a) (5) refers to placement of children in "A home which has been certified by a social worker or probation officer as meeting licensing standards, provided that a family home license has been applied for and has not been denied".

In response to this report requirement the Department is conducting a survey of counties to determine the policies, procedures, concerns, and recommendations of counties related to the use of unlicensed foster homes. The survey will include, in addition to certified license pending homes, placements in homes which have pending license applications but are not certified, homes which are certified but have not applied for a license, and homes which are not certified and have not applied for a license and are not otherwise exempt.

The county survey portion of the study plan will include two activities. The first is completion by the counties of the attached administrative questionnaire. The second activity will include a review by state staff of placement and licensing records involving placements in unlicensed homes. Arrangements for this review will be made at a later date.

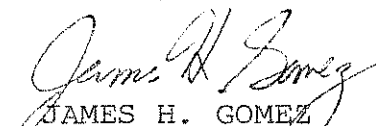


County welfare departments making AFDC-FC payments for children under the supervision of Probation Departments are responsible for obtaining the information required by the legislature for probation supervised children.

The attached questionnaire is intended to gather general information about placements of children in unlicensed foster homes. The questions are not to be applied to foster homes which are unlicensed pursuant to a licensing exemption under state law. The follow-up survey of a sample of foster care and licensing records will be conducted during the month of August. We would appreciate completion and return of this questionnaire no later than 7/5/81 to Tom Burke, Department of Social Services, Family and Children's Services Policy Unit, 744 "P" Street, M.S.9-103 Sacramento, CA 95814.

If you have any questions please contact Tom Burke at (916) 322-6333.

Sincerely,


JAMES H. GOMEZ
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA

ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONNAIRE

(AB 2749, Certified Homes)

Name of County _____ County Contact Person _____

Date Completed _____ Title _____ Telephone _____

Each section and item on this survey form should be completed. The survey includes only children and homes participating in the program in the month of June 1981. Please flag these cases so they can be located during the field review portion of this study. Item A in sections I, II and III should be answered "yes" or "no"; "not applicable" (NA) should not be used in responding to item A. Other items which are not applicable should be marked NA rather than left blank. THIS SURVEY IS NOT APPLICABLE TO HOMES WHICH ARE UNLICENSED PURSUANT TO A LICENSING EXEMPTION IN STATE LAW.

I. CERTIFIED/LICENSE PENDING HOMES

(Defined as homes which have applied for a license and have been certified by the social worker/probation officer as meeting licensing requirements pending licensure).

A. Does the county welfare/probation department place and/or supervise children in homes in this category?

Yes _____ How many children? _____
No _____ How many homes? _____

Legal Status of Children

Age Range

	<u>W & I Code</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>
1.	300a, b, d	_____	0-5	_____
2.	300 c	_____	6-12	_____
3.	601	_____	12-16	_____
4.	602	_____	16-21	_____
5.	Voluntary	_____		_____

B. Describe the reasons for and the circumstances under which such placements are made.

C. Describe procedures and documentation used to certify homes pending licensure (e.g. visit procedures and frequency, documentation forms, etc.).

1. Does the social worker/probation officer visit the home prior to placement of the child?

Yes _____ No _____

- a. If practice varies, describe circumstances under which the worker would not visit prior to placement.

2. Describe procedures used to insure that a license application is filed and monitor progress of licensing process.

- D. Are children ever in placement prior to the filing of a license application? Describe the circumstances.

1. If such placements are made by another agency or individual, describe county policy and response to such a placement.

- E. How long are children typically in placement prior to granting of the license?

F. How many children (approximate percent) are relocated prior to granting of the license? Describe reasons for removal and where they are relocated to?

G. Describe county policy and procedures in the event the license application is denied (e.g. relocation procedures and time frames).

II. Noncertified/License Pending Homes (Defined as homes which have applied for a license but have not been certified by the social worker/probation officer as meeting licensing standards).

A. Are these children placed in homes in this category?

Yes _____ How many children _____
 No _____ How many homes _____

<u>Legal Status of Children</u>		<u>Age</u>	<u>Range</u>
<u>W & I Code</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>
1. 300a, b, d	_____	0-5	_____
2. 300 c	_____	6-12	_____
3. 601	_____	12-16	_____
4. 602	_____	16-21	_____
5. Voluntary	_____		_____

B. Describe the reasons for and circumstances under which such placements would occur.

C. Describe primary reasons for not certifying these homes.

D. Are placements made by another agency or individual in homes with this status without prior knowledge and/or participation by the county welfare/probation department? If yes, describe the type of agency or relationship of child to placing individual and county policy and response to such a placement.

E. Describe procedures and documentation used to evaluate the adequacy of service provided in the home.

III. Unlicensed/Not Certified/No Pending Application (This category excludes homes that would be exempt from licensing requirements such as the home of a relative or guardian).

a. What is the county response when a placement in a home which is unlicensed, non-certified, and has no pending application is discovered.

b. Describe the reasons for and the circumstances under which such a placement would occur?

c. Approximately how frequently such placements occur?

- d. How does the county respond if the home is unable or refuses to comply with certification and/or licensing requirements?

IV. County Concerns and Recommendations

- A. Describe the county's most serious concerns and problems related to placements of children in homes in categories I through III above.

- B. What, if any, negative consequences for county placement activities would occur if placement of children in homes certified pending licensure is eliminated.

- C. What changes in existing certification/licensing procedures and standards are recommended by the county to improve the process and assure adequate protection of children?

- D. Should placement in unlicensed facilities be re-defined, minimized, or eliminated?

If Yes, how?

If No, why not?